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remembrance ni

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## Sir Robin Kinahan, ERD, Gunner and public servant

Sir Robert George Caldwell Kinahan who died on this date in 1997 was one of the last of the "auld dacency"



*Robin and Me at Ulster Defence Regiment Memorial Service, Belfast Cathedral.*

***Sir Robin Kinahan DL and Lady Kinahan at a UDR Memorial Service, Belfast Cathedral***

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When war broke out in 1939, he joined the Royal Artillery, the 8th Anti- Aircraft Regiment, serving briefly in France before the Dunkirk withdrawal, then in the air defence of Coventry and London before ending up in Burma as part of General Slim's forgotten army.

He served in several roles in the regiment including that of Adjutant under Lt Col Jimmy Cunningham. The regiment drove up the Indus Valley and down the Ganges Valley before deploying in Burma where they took part in the Arakan peninsular campaign, and the Battle of the Despatch Box. They were known as the Twelve Mile Snipers due to



*Robin, Lord Mountbatten, Bill McCarley, Chairman, Burmah Star N.I.*

***Sir Robin Kinahan and Lord Mountbatten with the Chairman and Members of the Northern Ireland branch of the Burmah Star Association***

their accurate ground to ground firing of their anti-aircraft guns in an intense action.

Born in Belfast to Henry Kinahan and Blanche Grierson Kinahan, daughter of the Bishop of Down and Connor, Robin Kinahan was educated at Stowe. Upon leaving school

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he went straight into the family firm with a Vintner's Company Scholarship, which took him to Oporto and Bordeaux, this facilitated his knowledge of wine and the French language.

Following the war he entered politics as councillor for Belfast Oldpark, where in 1948 he defeated Labour activist Billy Blease. In 1956 he was appointed Hugh Sheriff of Belfast. He served in the Belfast Corporation for 10 years before becoming a Stormont Member of Parliament for Clifton, Belfast, defeating the incumbent independent Unionist, Norman Porter.

He was an MP for only a few months as he was elected Lord Mayor of Belfast by his fellow councillors. In 1961 he was conferred with a knighthood. He was Lord Mayor from 1959 to 1961, the youngest person to have done so at that time. In 1969, he was appointed High Sheriff of Antrim.

When serving as Dean's Warden at Belfast Cathedral he and Dean Cuthbert Peacocke, a chaplain in WW2, assisted Canon Chad Varah, founder of Samaritans, to establish the first branch in Ireland in Belfast.

In 1963, following his family firm being taken over in 1961, he acquired Castle Upton, Templepatrick, and 300 acres. He and his wife, Coralie de Burgh, an artist (and daughter of Captain Charles de Burgh, The Lodge, Seaford, County Down), set about restoring it from an almost ruinous state.

He and his wife had two sons and three daughters. Their son, Danny has been a member of the NI Assembly and Westminster. A former regular cavalry officer he has close links with the North Irish Horse squadron and is now Veterans' Commissioner for Northern Ireland.



# On this Day – May 2



## **UVF COLOURS PRESENTATION 1914**

The First and Second Battalions West Belfast Regiment Ulster Volunteer Force were presented with King's colours and Regimental standards, Saturday 2nd May 1914, in the grounds of Glencairn, the beautiful residence of Mr. James Cunningham.

## **1940**

Germans troops reach Aandalesnes.

Allied forces are evacuated from Namsos. Chamberlain announces British forces are to withdraw from southern Norway.

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## **1941**

British Evacuation of Greece complete.

Hostilities break out between British forces in Iraq and that country's pro-German faction. Iraqis attack the British base at Habbaniya, but are repulsed.

## **1942**

Admiral Chester J. Nimitz, convinced that the Japanese will attack Midway Island, visits the island to review its readiness.

Admiral Fletcher, leaves the Lexington and her escorts to refuel, taking the Yorktown and her escorts and steamed north towards Tulagi.

American bombers take time out from fighting the Japanese to fight Mother Nature; they bomb Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano in order to divert a lava flow from the city of Hilo.

The Australian garrison on Tulagi is evacuated.

## **1943**

SA Chief of Staff Viktor Lutze is killed. The actual cause of his death remains mysterious. Officially, he died in a automobile accident, although rumours persist that he was killed when German partisans ambushed his car. He is succeeded by Wilhelm Scheppmann.

## **1944**

British teacher Leonard Dawe publishes crossword puzzle in Daily Telegraph using all five code names for the Normandy landing beaches—he's placed under MI5 investigation.

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## 1945

RAF Bomber Command, launch its last major action of war against Kiel.

The British Second Army reaches Lubeck. The first lorry convoys carrying relief supplies to occupied Holland are allowed through German lines.

The German Army in Italy abides by the Caserta agreement and surrenders to the allies, with hostilities ceasing at 12 noon GMT.

General Weidling, the commander of Berlin's Garrison meets with General Chuikov and accepts his terms of unconditional surrender of Berlin. The garrison in Berlin surrenders to 1st Belorussian and 1st Ukrainian Armies at 3pm local time. During the 2 week battle for the German Capital, the Russians suffer more than 300,000 casualties and while it is hard to estimate German casualties, the figure of 480,000 German prisoners says a lot.



# Roll of Honour – May 2

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

## **+MACKELL, Joseph**

2 RIR. Rifleman. 5244. Died 02/05/1915. Enlisted Dromore. Born in Blaris, Co. Antrim, he was the son of Joseph and May Mackell who were married in Hillsborough, possibly at Rielly's Trench, (to the west of Hillsborough) in 1879. In 1901 at the time of the census, the family were living in Young Street, though by the time of Joseph junior's death they may have moved to Blaris. Joseph senior was employed as a boat/lighter man and worked on the barges, May was a mill worker. Joseph was brother of Patrick Mackell who lived in Barrack Street, Lisburn. Joseph junior who may also have been employed as a boatman. Ridge Wood Military Cemetery, Voormezele, Belgium According to the introduction in the cemetery register, "Ridge Wood was the name given to a wood standing on high ground between the Kemmel Road and Dickebusch lake ... the position was chosen for a front line cemetery as early as May 1915, the first graves belong to the 2nd. RIR." All six graves in row A, plot 1 are 2 RIR and dated 02.05.1915. The cemetery register entry for one of them, Rm. J. McIlldoon, notes that he was KIA at Kemmel. Alexander Ritchie from

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Lisburn, is also buried here. He was killed on the 13/03/1916.

**1916**

**+KANE, William James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. (City of Derry U.V.F.) Ulster Division. Lance Corporal.15650. Died 02/05/1916. Age 18. Son of Alexander and Margaret Kane, and brother of Alexander Kane, 44, Ferguson Street, Londonderry. Forceville Communal Cemetery, France. Diamond War Memorial. St Augustine's Church (Church of Ireland), Londonderry, First World War Memorial.

William Kane, who was only seventeen years of age the day he volunteered, was formerly a collar cutter in the factory of Messrs. Leinster Brothers & Staveacre, and was the first in that establishment to answer the call of King and country.

His younger brother was only fifteen years of age when he joined the 'Derry Regiment', and both went out to France with the Ulster Division, but when the younger brother was out for a period he was sent back to Enniskillen to be attached to the 12th Battalion owing to his being too young for active service.

Deceased was an enthusiastic Ulster Volunteer before the war, a member of the Browning Club of Apprentice Boys of Derry, and of Churchill Loyal Orange Lodge 871, whose roll of honour at the time was the largest in the City Grand Lodge, ninety members serving with the colours. Many had been wounded and three had already been killed before



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Lance Corporal Kane became the first member of the Lodge belonging to the Derry Regiment to fall.

William's father, Mr Alexander Kane, who served with the Royal Engineers for eighteen years and received four bullet wounds during the South African campaign, and held the King's and Queen's medals, received a letter from the Reverend R. F. M. Clifford, Church of Ireland chaplain, in the course of which he stated –

'Lance Corporal Kane died of wounds on May 2 [1916]. You have reason to be proud of one who offered himself to the sacred cause in which our troops are engaged, and who belonged to a battalion which was specially mentioned for its magnificent conduct during the exceptionally severe bombardment last March. Lance Corporal Kane received a bullet wound in the head. I don't expect he was conscious from the time that he received it, and his spirit had passed away before he was brought to hospital. But what we have got to remember is that this life is not the whole of life, and that what we call death is but the passage to a larger, fuller, more glorious life, in which we will know and understand more about that infinite love of God which passes all understanding. I conducted the funeral service yesterday. The mortal remains were laid to rest in the prettiest and best-kept of our military cemeteries that I have as yet seen out here. May the good God comfort all those who grieve, and help them to realise that He knows and feels their sorrows, and will not leave unnoticed all the sacrifices so nobly made.'

Lieutenant J. M. Wilton, writing to Mr Kane, said – 'Your son's name has been added to the list of gallant Derrymen who have died for their country. From the formation of the

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regiment up till six weeks ago I was almost in daily contact with him, and so had an opportunity of knowing his good qualities. He was one of the most promising soldiers in his company, keen, smart, and always anxious to do his duty, however hard. Indeed, he was getting immediate promotion in recognition of his work during the trying times through which the battalion has passed.'

The name of William Kane was read out at a memorial service held, in St Columb's (Church of Ireland) Cathedral, Londonderry, on Sunday, July 30, 1916, to pay homage to the memory of the men of the city of Derry, who died during the second year of the Great War.

His name was also read out at a memorial service, held in St Augustine's (Church of Ireland) Church at the end of December 1917, in remembrance of ten members of the congregation who had fallen in the Great War and others who had officially been reported as missing.

On the second anniversary of the death of Lance Corporal William Kane, members of his family placed the following tribute to his memory in a Londonderry newspaper:-

'Friends may forget him, but mother will never,  
He will dwell in my heart till life's journey is done; Lord,  
teach us to live that when our days are ended We'll be met  
at the gates by our dear hero son.'

William Kane's father, Alexander, died two years after the demise of his son, at the age of fifty-five. Military honours were accorded the funeral, held on Wednesday, July 3, 1918, to Londonderry City Cemetery. The remains were conveyed on a gun carriage, behind which walked a detachment and firing party of the Dorsets. Representatives

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from the Apprentice Boys (Browning Club), Maiden City Royal Black Preceptory 113, and Churchhill Loyal Orange Lodge and Royal Arch Purple Chapter 871, of which Alexander Kane was a member, also attended. After the service at the graveside the 'Last Post' was sounded and the firing party discharged three volleys. Alexander, Maggie and W. J. Kane, 25, Ivy Terrace, signed the 1912 Ulster Covenant pledging resistance to Home Rule for Ireland.

**+McCULLOUGH, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. attd. 17th Btn. Rifleman. 3728. Died 02/05/ 1916. Age 54. Husband to S. A. McCullough, of 29, Manor St., Donaghadee. Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin

**+PHILPOTT, George**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Serjeant. 15055. Died 02/05/1916. Age 37 years old. Native of Belfast. Served in the South African Campaign. Son of Robert and Matilda Philpott; husband to Elizabeth Philpott, of 182, Conway St., Belfast. Served in the South African Campaign. Native of Belfast. Lillers Communal Cemetery, France

**1918**

**+ALLEN William Allen**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn Rifleman. 59. Died 02/05/1918. Aged 19. Enlisted Belfast. Son of Joseph Allen and his wife Hannah. The couple, both from Tullynamullan, had married on the 5 December 1882 in 2nd Antrim Presbyterian Church. Toome Road, Ballymena, Co Antrim. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France. (13th May 1918, Northern Whig).

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**+BUCHANAN, Richard**

1/6 NSR. Private. 50545. MM. Died 02/05/1918. Awarded the M.M. for "conspicuous service in action". Served originally in the RASC (T/32714) before being transferred to 1/6 NSR. Born in Drumbeg, he lived in Lisburn and Belfast, and enlisted at Newtownards. Husband to Cissie and father of a little child, Florence May Buchanan of Sandy Lane, Lambeg, Lisburn. In Memoriam notice in the Lisburn Herald of 03/05/1919. Beuvry Communal Extension, Pas de Calais, France

**1940**

**+COULTER, Jacob Wallace**

RN. Telegraphist. D/J 109264. Died 02/05/1940. HMS Maori. Husband to Christina Coulter, Croft St., Bangor. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39, Col 3.

**+REED, Wilfrid Harold John**

South Wales Borderers, 2nd Btn. Private. 3908455. Died 02/05/1940. Aged 24. Son of Wilfrid Harold John and Elizabeth Reed; husband to Kathleen Reed, of Londonderry. Ballangen New Cemetery, Norway

**1941**

**+PATTERSON, William Robert**

RN. Lieutenant Commander. OBE. DSC. Died 02/05/1941. Age 31. HMS Jersey. HMS Jersey was a J-class destroyer built by J.S. White and Company (Cowes) and

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commissioned in April 1939. During the night of 6/7 December 1939 HMS Jersey and HMS Juno were attacked by the German destroyers *Z-10* and *Z-12* off Cromer, Norfolk. HMS Jersey was hit by a torpedo fired from *Z-12* and this resulted in a large fire. For his 'undaunted courage, steadfastness, coolness and resource in saving ships and life at sea in the face of peril and adversity' during that incident William Robert Patterson (then a Lieutenant) was awarded the OBE (Military Division). He was one of the officers on the bridge at 2.30 am when the torpedo struck. The fuel oil caught fire and all the ship's lights and pumps were put out of action. The magazine was in danger of exploding and several men were marooned in the after part of the ship. The flames were eventually extinguished, and the ship brought safely to port. The damage took ten months to repair and HMS Jersey was back in action on 23/09/1940.

On 02/05/1941 HMS Jersey struck a mine and sank off La Valetta, Malta. Lieutenant Commander William Robert Patterson was reported missing and later it was officially confirmed that he must be presumed to have been lost at sea through enemy action.

Born 30/01/1910. Educated at Inchmarlo and the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI). William Robert Patterson's father and his uncle, John Fleming Patterson, were directors of the Northern Linen Company (Belfast) Ltd., 27 Wellington Place. Another of his uncles was Captain William Robert Patterson of HMS King George V. Captain Patterson was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath in recognition of his part in operations which ended with the sinking of the German battleship Bismarck in the North



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Atlantic on 27/04/1941. Another of his uncles was Vice-Admiral Sir Wilfred Patterson who unveiled the memorial doors in Groomsport Parish Church on 07/11/1948.

William Robert Patterson was the elder son of Charles Delamere Patterson and Sarah Haidee Patterson (nee Kennedy); husband to Elizabeth Jane Patterson, of Cardiff. The Patterson family lived at 75 Clifton Road, Bangor, at 124 Eglantine Avenue, Belfast, and at "Gulladuff", Craigavad, Co. Down. Chatham Naval Memorial Panel 41, Groomsport and District WM, Groomsport Parish Church, Glencraig Parish Church, RBAI WM

**1942**

**+HILLER, Benjamin Arthur**

RN. D/SSX 27599. Died 02/05/1942. Age 23. HMS Edinburgh. Edinburgh was the flagship of Rear-Admiral Stuart Bonham Carter, commanding the escort of returning Convoy "QP 11" consisting of 17 ships which left Murmansk on 28 April 1942. She was sighted by a German aircraft and on 30/04/1942 the German submarine U-456 commanded by Kapitänleutnant Max-Martin Teichert fired a torpedo into her starboard side causing Edinburgh to list. However the swift action of the crew in closing watertight bulkheads prevented the ship from sinking immediately. A second torpedo struck Edinburgh in the stern which incapacitated the ships steering and crippling her. She was taken in tow and an attempt was made to return to Murmansk accompanied by destroyers Foresight and Forester and four Mine Sweepers Gossamer, Harrier, Niger and Hussar. Along the way she was hounded constantly by German torpedo bombers. On 02/05/1942, as she progressed at a snail's

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pace under tow and her own power, she was attacked by three large German destroyers and cast off the tow causing her to sail in circles. Although her guns were in disarray, she fired on the attacking German ships. Her second salvo straddled the German ship Hermann Schoemann, damaging her severely enough that her crew scuttled her and while Edinburgh's escorts drove off two more German ships she was struck amidships by another torpedo so the crew abandoned ship. About 840 men were rescued by other ships however Two officers and 56 other ranks were killed in the attacks.

Arthur Hiller had four years' service. Prior to the war he worked for Gallaher Ltd, Took Street, Belfast. One of five sons of Leonard and Margaret E Hiller, Belfast, who served in HM forces during the war, four in the RN. Leonard Arden Hiller was born in Tamworth Staffs in 1880. Died Belfast 10/02/1949. Margaret Elizabeth (nee Smith) was born in Barrow in Furnace 1884 and died Belfast 06/09/1970. They married in Belfast 11/07/1903. A Leonard Hiller, 699396, served in World War 1. Hyndford St., Bloomfield, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 07/08/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 65

### **+YOUNG, William Lewis Johnston**

RAFV. Flight Sergeant (Pilot). 1058075. Died 02/05/1942. Aged 23. 106 Sqdn. Son of John George Young, and of Minnie Winnifred Young, of Whitehouse, Co. Antrim. Aabenraa Cemetery, Denmark. QUB WM

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**1944**

**+CLAYTON, Samuel Joseph**

RAFVR.Sergeant (Wireless Operator). 1545659. Died 02/05/1944. Aged 24. 218 Sqdn. Samuel was keenly interested in the Royal Air Force and achieved his lifelong dream when he was accepted for aircrew training. He was posted to Squadron 218 of Bomber Command. Samuel was one of a crew of eight in a bomber which took off from Woolfox Lodge Base to destroy railway lines and storage depots at Chambly in France. The operation was part of the bombing offensive in the lead up to the Normandy landings on D Day. His plane came down at La Housaye near Auneuil with a loss of 4 crew, including himself. All four were buried in Poix de Picardie Churchyard, Somme, France. The four surviving crew all evaded capture. Son of William and Elizabeth Clayton of 2, Eden Avenue Portadown. Poix-de-Picardie Churchyard. Somme, France. Portadown WM. 1<sup>st</sup> Portadown BB RH

**+MOFFIT, John Anderson**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Corporal. 6983646. Died 02/05/1944. Aged 21. Son of Crozier F. and Elizabeth S. Moffit, of Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone. Beach Head Cemetery, Anzio, Italy

**+RAMSEY, James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6980188. Died 02/05/1944. Aged 22. Son of Margert Ramsey, and stepson of E. Wright, of Ballymoney. Beach Head Cemetery, Anzio, Italy

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### **+TURNBULL, Gordon**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6985541. Died 02/05/1944. Aged 20. Son of Mr. And Mrs. James Turnbull, Kilrea. Beach Head Cemetery, Anzio, Italy. Kilrea WM

**1946**

### **+BROWN, Mervyn Gamble**

Royal Artillery. 9 HAA Regt. 24 Battery, Sergeant. 1452072. Died 02/05/1946. Aged 33. Son of William Frederick and Lila Molly Brown of Enniskillen; Husband of Patricia Lucy Brown of Bray, County Wicklow. Breandrum Cemetery. Portora RS WM

## **VETERANS**

### **HANLEY, Herbert**

Gunner Herbert (Herbie) Raymond Hanley. 1456641, served with 8<sup>th</sup> (Belfast) Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. Born on 17/10/1919. He died 02/05/1987 in Belfast.

He enlisted at Dunmore Park Stadium on 27/04/1939. He was formally called up on 03/09/1939. He remained in the UK, including training in Cornwall until 19/12/1939. He was with the B.E.F from 20/12/1939 to 25/06/1940. His mother received a "missing in action" telegram at that time, as he did not leave France until a number of days after the evacuation.

From 26/06/1940 to 28/05/1942 he was stationed throughout Britain including Bolton, Dudley, and Dundee. When Singapore fell he was actually at Southampton Docks waiting to ship out for action there. Instead, he shipped out

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to India (from Clydebank, Scotland) on 31/05/1942 (via Durban) and was there from 29th May, 1942 to 28th May, 1944. He went through O.C.T.U. in 1943 and on 27/05/1944 he was formally discharged from the British Army in Bombay.

From 1944 until the end of the war, he was a Lieutenant with the Indian Army (the 26th Division). With the Indian Army he took part in the Ramree Island invasion. He sustained hearing loss (the big guns did that) and shrapnel wounds but like a lot of his contemporaries, he never talked much about the "whens" and "hows".

Born on 17/10/1919. He died 02/05/1987 in Belfast.

### **MOORE, James**

Lance Corporal James Moore served in 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles during World War Two. The Rifles landed on Sword Beach on 06/06/1944, making their way inland to Cambes Wood and beyond.

With 'B' Company, James took part in the Normandy landings on D-Day and fought through Normandy and north-west Europe.

Born in Belfast on 02/05/1909, he was the son of James Moore and Margaret Moore (née Duncan). James Moore died in April 1973.



# Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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# remembrance ni

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The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at [houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com](mailto:houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com)

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